

this administration's 2-year crackdown on job creators.

More needs to be done to unleash the full potential of Main Street, and the direction must change before anyone goes on a victory lap or asks for a trophy.

In God We Trust.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, the first day of Black History Month to honor Black history as American history.

Black history is about the sung and unsung Black heroes and sheroes who have contributed to our Nation's progress—from the Revolutionary War to the fight against COVID and everything in between.

Therefore, we say thank you to the Black Americans who stand for justice, for voting rights, for women's rights, for saving Black lives, for better healthcare, climate reform, and education. I believe whether it is teaching AP Black history courses or standing on this House floor—that when we acknowledge the unique struggle of Black Americans through history—we grow closer to our Nation's highest ideals.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will take time this month to learn and truly understand Black history is American history.

#### FENTANYL CRISIS

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, deceptive drugs made of fentanyl are killing young people and destroying lives in southern California and across our Nation at an alarming rate.

In California, fentanyl is responsible for one out of every five youth deaths.

The top source of fentanyl is the U.S.-Mexico border, and last year, 60 percent of fentanyl found in 2022 was at southern California ports of entry in San Diego and Imperial counties near my district.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department seized more than 400 pounds of suspected fentanyl, and nearly 400,000 pills suspected to contain fentanyl during the first 10 months in 2022.

I will keep fighting for solutions to secure our border and prevent these drugs from entering our schools, streets, neighborhoods, and homes.

#### ADDICTION CRISIS IN EVERY COMMUNITY

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the addiction crisis that continues to impact just about every community and every family across this country.

Many of us have lost neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Despite significant efforts at all levels of government, recent statistics show the problem is worsening.

My hometown of Manchester saw a 22 percent increase in opioid-related overdoses last year and a 41 percent increase in opioid-related deaths. We must do more to confront this crisis to support those who are suffering from substance use disorder and to stop the trafficking of fentanyl and its analogues.

These substances, which authorities are now finding in nearly all illicit drugs, have only made this crisis more and more deadly.

That is why last week, alongside Representatives DAN NEWHOUSE and TONY GONZALES, I reintroduced the Save Americans from the Fentanyl Emergency Act. Our bill would permanently schedule all fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs. This would ensure that law enforcement retains an important tool to get these deadly drugs off the streets and hold traffickers accountable. It will help save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

#### RECOGNIZING THE GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY ASIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mrs. BICE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of the Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce, which will empower businesses and support the economic growth of the Asian community in Oklahoma.

The Asian community is one of the fastest growing populations in the Nation and in Oklahoma, with nearly 50,000 Asian residents and more than 5,300 businesses in the greater Oklahoma City metro area, resulting in \$203 million in payroll and \$1.2 billion in sales.

Clearly, the Asian community has fostered great innovation and boosted our local economy. I am proud to serve such a vibrant community and am grateful for their remarkable contributions to the district.

Thank you to the incredible leaders and entrepreneurs who have created this new chamber that will benefit the community and beyond.

I am particularly grateful for the leadership of Scarlet Le-Cao and her vision in starting the Greater Oklahoma City Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Her leadership will be vital for years to come.

#### CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF PAUL WOODS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the incredible life and service of World War II veteran Paul Woods.

Mr. Woods joined the United States Army in 1941. During the war, he bravely fought for America's freedoms abroad and racism at home.

Mr. Woods is known to say: "A bullet knows no race, rank, or status. We were all brothers on the battlefield."

On February 20, Mr. Woods will celebrate his 100th birthday. It is my honor to celebrate this American hero and to thank him for his selfless service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

#### RECOGNIZING SHARON JOHNSON'S 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to honor an incredible woman, my deputy chief of staff, Sharon Johnson. Today marks Sharon's 35 years of service to Mississippi's Third Congressional District.

Sharon was born and raised in Louisville, Mississippi, and began her career in Washington, D.C., under the legendary G.V. Sonny Montgomery and has served our district under all three Members of Congress since: Congressman Chip Pickering, Congressman Gregg Harper, and now I am blessed that she has been a member of my team since day one.

Over the past 35 years, Sharon has proven to be a true asset to the people of Mississippi's Third Congressional District. Her unwavering commitment to service and community has earned her the respect and admiration of those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Today, we honor Sharon and celebrate her service. I am hopeful that Sharon's record of public service will inspire future generations of young women to consider this important work.

On behalf of Mississippi's Third Congressional District, I extend my sincere thanks to Sharon Johnson for her 35 years of unwavering service.

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#### HONORING GREENSBORO FOUR

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on this day 63 years ago, four courageous North Carolina A&T students, Franklin McCain, Jibreel Khazan, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond, staged a sit-in at the Whites-only lunch counter

of the Woolworth Department Store in Greensboro, North Carolina, after they were refused service.

They came to be known as the Greensboro Four. In the days to come, their peaceful protest grew as they were joined by students from Bennett College and Dudley High School.

Their courageous actions inspired over 700,000 people across the Nation to participate in sit-ins, sparking a revolution that moved our Nation forward in the fight for civil rights.

Today, as we celebrate the first day of Black History Month, we remember their legacy, which is honored at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum that is in that very Woolworth's building in Greensboro.

I am proud to co-lead a resolution with Congresswoman ADAMS to encourage States to include the Greensboro sit-ins in school curriculums.

#### HONORING JAN LENTZ

(Mr. PFLUGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong public servant and valuable member of the Texas-11 team, Mrs. Jan Lentz.

For 7 years, Jan has devoted her time and talents to our district as a constituent services aide. She previously served with the VA, West Texas Counseling and Guidance, and many other organizations and has led a veterans support group for over 15 years, most of this as a volunteer.

Jan's impact on our community exceeds everything beyond words, and her service has extended far beyond our district. She has literally impacted thousands of lives, veteran lives and family member lives, and so many in need in our community.

Over the years, Jan has secured countless benefits for veterans and has impacted thousands of veteran families. Last year alone, she returned over \$100,000 in taxes back to constituents.

Jan is someone who we all wish we could be.

As she moves into the next phase of her life in retirement, we want Jan to know that we are grateful for her service. We are grateful for what she has done for our community, veterans, and so many people in need.

I say thank you to Jan from the bottom of our hearts, from our team, our district, and the State of Texas. We all wish Jan good luck in retirement.

#### COMMENDING PENNSYLVANIA HERO BENJAMIN STEIDINGER

(Ms. WILD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we approach the 1-year anniversary of the heroism of Benjamin Steidinger, of Germansville, Pennsylvania.

When Benjamin saw smoke coming from a house across his street, he didn't just call 911. He climbed up a ladder to the second story, knocked out a window, and crawled across the floor, where he rescued two women, a baby, and a dog from the smoke and flames.

Benjamin thought he might not make it out of that house alive, but he put his life at risk in sacrifice for others. He is among the best of us.

Today, I commend Benjamin for representing and living out the values of our community: grit, determination, and courage in the face of immense challenges.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Seventh District, we thank Benjamin for his courage.

#### RECOGNIZING DEPUTY J. BENEZETTE

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man, Deputy J. Benezette from the Cass County Sheriff's Office who recently received the Life Saving Award.

Deputy Benezette was on his way home from an extra duty assignment at the sheriff's office and heard a dispatch call. An incident had happened nearby, and he answered that call for service.

Deputy Benezette got on the scene, where two motor vehicles were involved in an accident. One vehicle was completely overturned and had water pouring into it. With two people trapped inside and one struggling to keep her head above water, Deputy Benezette was able to quickly rescue both of them, saving a life and preventing a drowning.

His actions show dedication to duty under the most extreme circumstances, and he has been recognized with the Life Saving Award by his department.

Deputy Benezette serves Cass County and our Fourth District faithfully. He is a hero for our community and will be our guest at the State of the Union Address next week.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him and every member of our law enforcement community across America for the service they do for us.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS RAISE TAXES ON FAMILIES, CUT BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 83rd anniversary of the first Social Security check being issued. Since then, Democrats have worked to protect and strengthen Social Security, which has kept seniors from poverty and helped ensure a secure economic future for working Americans.

This year, Social Security beneficiaries received an 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment, the largest increase in decades.

While 70 million Americans are benefiting from this increase today, Republicans are working hard to slash Social Security and Medicare. To add further insult to injury, the Republican economic scheme includes a 30 percent sales tax that will impact every American family.

Our children, our families, and our seniors do not deserve to carry the undue financial burden of Republican tax breaks for large corporations and billionaires.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to realign their priorities and start working for the people.

#### FAILING DEMOCRATIC POLICIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a result of failing policies by Biden and the Democrat-led Congress, American families continue to feel the impact of 40-year-high inflation in their pocketbooks. Last year, the cost of everyday products and services rose exponentially, destroying jobs.

Since Biden took office, there has been a \$10 trillion increase in spending above projections, \$2.5 million increase on interest payments on growing Federal debt, \$1.9 trillion on the American Rescue Plan, \$745 billion on the inflation expansion act, \$3.4 trillion on the infrastructure investment act, and \$1 trillion in Biden executive actions.

This irresponsible spending has hurt all Americans, and we must address it. The newly elected House Republican majority, ably led by Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY, is committed to creating jobs and a government that is accountable to the people. We must reestablish fiscal sanity.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Just yesterday, another terrorist was caught crossing the southern border.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY IS SAFE WITH REPUBLICANS

(Mr. MCCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 days, I have heard repeatedly the other side of the House say that Republicans want to cut Social Security or reduce spending on Social Security and reduce benefits from Social Security.

I will call that a lie. Just because you repeat it multiple times does not